

BB 12

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
13 August 1962

Description Prior to Launching

Moscow TASS in English to Europe 1914 GMT 11 August 1962--L

(Report by TASS special correspondent Aleksandr Romanov from the launching site)

(Text) (No dateline--Ed.) The earth trembled as the mighty engines of Vostok III roared to life and lifted the huge multistage rocket from the launching pad. Even to those of who were not witnessing a manned launching for the first time the sight of the struggle between the gravity of the earth and force created by the human mind was breathtaking.

Only a few moments earlier we wished success to Andrian Nikolayev, who rose on a platform in front of the gantry elevator and by tradition addressed a short speech to the assembled people. This was taped and later broadcast over Moscow radio. As we listened to Nikolayev, his figure was in a way monumental. Under the airtight helmet we could see the thick black eyebrows joining over the bridge of the nose, and beneath them brown shining eyes full of firm determination.

On 10 August we had visited the house where the cosmonauts rest before a flight. We saw a small room with a large window the length of the wall. There were two beds. Over them were portraits of Yuriy Gagarin and German Titov. In the room was a table and a bookstand, flowers, and a chessboard.

The cosmonauts were out when we called, but we were received by physicians. "Where does cosmonaut III sleep?" "On this bed, which once belonged to Gagarin," one doctor replied.

Just then two cosmonauts, Andrian and his relief, entered the building noisily. We asked them how they spent their last days before a flight. Nikolayev said: "All the knowledge we obtained during our studies and in mock flights at the training center has now been brushed up, so to say, but the main test lies ahead. I am sure it will be passed. I wish to thank all the people who had trained me, and especially the chief designer. He is a wonderful instructor--exact and yet cordial and solicitous."

Speaking of his forthcoming flight, Nikolayev noted: "The conquest of space is a big and difficult problem. I am sorry that the Soviet proposals for the joint study of the universe have not met due support from the United States."

Countdown time approached. The cosmonaut and his standby donned special space suits, which contain devices to transmit information to the earth about the health of the flyer and then pulled on the orange overalls which

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Telecast to Leaders

Moscow TASS in English to Europe 2024 GMT 11 August 1962--L

(Excerpt) The radiotelephone talk is over. The television screens light up with a bluish hue. For a minute it seems that Nikolayev has descended from the sky somewhere next to the TV studio. The interior of the cabin is seen absolutely clearly. Nikita Khrushchev and the others present see the resolute, courageous face of the citizen of the Soviet Union, who is accomplishing a remarkable feat for the sake of new successes of Soviet science, for the sake of mankind's progress. The cosmonaut is calm and confident. He does not know that he is being watched from the earth and carries out his mission accurately.

Khrushchev comments on the telecast: Everything is clearly visible, indeed, he says. I can even read the inscriptions on the log, and can see the coat-of-arms of the Soviet Union. And here, comrades, as he said smiling, is the law of weightlessness in action.

All those present see how the cosmonaut has turned his head and is catching the pencil that floats in front of him. He ties it to the right log so that it will not float away. Incidentally, the right log also "hangs" in front of the cosmonaut and when he turns his pages he has to catch it.

The face of Nikolayev is clearly seen on the television screens. Khrushchev said, watching the work of the pilot-cosmonaut: "Yes, of course, this is a determined, courageous, and concentrating man. By such men become heroes of space!"

The screens go dark. The spaceship is streaking further and further away. He will orbit the world many times and each orbit means a multitude of scientific observations, new discoveries, and confirmation of old ones.

It became quiet for a few minutes in the hall where the radiotelephone talk between Nikita Khrushchev and the cosmonaut took place, and then the people watched him working. Then everyone heartily acclaimed Khrushchev, congratulated each other, like all Soviet people are doing right now, with all their friends throughout the world. Nikita Khrushchev spoke warmly about the Soviet scientists, engineers, technicians, workers, and designers, about all those who are now helping the cosmonaut steer his ship in outer space, about those whose labor are increasing the might of the Soviet Union, about those who are building communism.